



## **Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority**

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### **ISCBA'S MBE/WBE INITIATIVE PROVING SUCCESSFUL**

INDIANAPOLIS – Four months into a new initiative to encourage more minority participation in construction of the new Lucas Oil Stadium and Convention Center expansion, the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority (ISCBA) believes the program is achieving the desired objectives.

According to ISCBA executive director John P. Klipsch, the six-step plan is resulting in more minority and women contractors winning contracts to work on the \$675 million stadium project.

“Including both construction and professional services, MBE firms so far account for 14.30 % and WBE firms account for 3.96 % of contracts awarded,” said Klipsch. “We are making good progress toward the 15% and 5% goals for the two categories.”

Meanwhile, Engaging Solutions -- a local consulting firm -- said new promotional activities are encouraging more minority and women contractors to actually bid on contract packages in recent weeks, something that wasn't happening as often during the first few weeks of the project.

Summarizing results of the six-step initiative after four months, Klipsch offered the following observations:

1. The requirement that bids be accompanied up front by a commitment to a specific level of MBW/WBE sub-contracts versus allowing bidders an extra day before confirming that commitment is being implemented in all bid packages.
2. Engaging Solutions is participating in all pre-bid meetings to stress the need to identify qualified MBE/WBE contractors before the bid dates.

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3. To date, no contractors have been penalized for failing to honor a commitment to a certain level of MBE/WBE participation, although the possibility of such a penalty will remain in force for the life of the projects.
4. Hunt/Smoot/Mezzetta is exploring upcoming bid packages to determine which might include even higher participation goals. For example, Bid Package 9B on millwork and interior finishes, for which sealed bids must be received on September 27, raises the goals for MBE/WBE participation to 20% and 10%, respectively – which Klipsch describes as “both desirable and achievable.”
5. Orientation and information sessions for prospective bidders have already begun. The first was conducted in July and will follow on a quarterly basis.
6. Meetings also are being conducted with MBE/WBE advocacy groups to share bidding information with wider audiences concerned that their constituents have ample opportunities to share in contract awards.

Klipsch continued to stress that other high profile projects in the area, with comparable goals for MBE/WBE participation, require the ISCBA to work doubly hard to achieve its goals. “We are doing all we can to create real opportunities for MBE/WBE firms on our project,” he said. “And we continue to challenge ourselves and our prime contractors to recruit Indiana vendors to help us to achieve our goals.”

Now under construction just south of the RCA Dome in the Hoosier capital, Lucas Oil Stadium will feature seven levels, a retractable roof and 63,000 permanent seats. It can be expanded to 70,000 to host NCAA Final Four men’s and women’s basketball games or the Super Bowl. The multi-purpose stadium also will be used for major conventions, trade shows and special events such as the annual Indiana Black Expo and Circle City Classic.

The new stadium is scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of the Colts football season in August 2008. Upon its completion, the RCA Dome will be torn down to accommodate a major addition to the Indiana Convention Center. That project is targeted for a 2010 completion.